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SUBJECT: DRUG CONTROL AGENCY BENCHMARK REVIEW, JULY - DECEMBER

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¶1. (SBU) Summary: On December 17, INL Dushanbe and DEA Dushanbe participated in an International Working Group (IWG) meeting at the Drug Control Agency (DCA). General Nazarov is exposing his executive staff to donors and DEA, a change in behavior. While donors made up a 23,000 USD shortfall in DCA salaries in 2009, the government took away 22,000 somoni from the DCA operating budget to finance the Roghun hydropower project. Corruption still blocks narcotics investigations in Tajikistan. Donors dissuaded the DCA from continuing to compile a database of drug addicts and HIV/AIDS infected persons. During the first six months of 2009, the DCA and partners achieved 17 of 18 benchmark goals. Post assesses DCA performance to be adequate but poised to improve with a temporary moratorium on further salary supplement cuts. Post will prepare an in-depth DCA summary cable in January 2010. END SUMMARY

¶2. (U) On December 17, INL Dushanbe, DEA Dushanbe, UNODC representatives, and four top DCA officers (collectively, the International Working Group, IWG) reviewed the performance benchmarks of the Drug Control Agency for July to December 2009. Colonel Saidulloev, the new DCA Chief of Staff, presented the benchmarks. Post e-mailed the full benchmark review document to INL/AEE.

¶3. (SBU) Recently, DCA Director General Nazarov has included his executive staff in meetings with INL, DEA, and UNODC. The DCA deputy director, financial director, operational director, and mobile team director participated in the IWG meeting, a significant departure from DCA business as usual. Comment: A pending personnel shake up and/or the U.S. Embassy's recent and repeated demands for greater assistance process transparency are the most likely reasons. End Comment.

¶4. (SBU) The DCA said the Government of Tajikistan took 22,000 somoni from the DCA's 2009 operating budget and diverted this money to the Roghun hydropower project. In the past 60 days, INL and UNODC scrambled to provide funds to the DCA to make up a \$23,000 salary shortfall.

¶5. (SBU) General Nazarov advised that during a recent drug

operation the DCA mobile unit in Kizil Art (GBAO) received several phone calls from unknown persons requesting that a particular vehicle not be searched. The unknown callers warned that the Tajik Customs and Border Guard Service were aware of this vehicle and its special status (paraphrased). General Nazarov said by constantly rotating the DCA mobile team officers through the various regions it was making them less susceptible to corruption and, in some quarters, too effective.

¶6. (SBU) The DCA created a database of drug addicts and HIV/AIDS infected persons in Tajikistan (no USG funding), but was unable to get names and other identifiable data from the Health Ministry. During the IWG meeting, DEA, INL and UNODC objected to the DCA's efforts to build the database as untoward governmental intrusion and redundant; the Health Ministry already maintains such a database. General Nazarov conceded that the DCA could obtain specific information from the Health Ministry on a case needs basis and use the resources going towards the database elsewhere. Post will monitor this issue.

#### ¶7. (SBU) BENCHMARKS

Benchmark 1.1. To convene periodic IWG meetings to monitor the project activities, to effect timely grants disbursement and review funding and self-sustainability of the DCA.

Results: Achieved. IWG members met three times during the first six months of 2009 and had several small working group meetings.

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Benchmark 1.2. Regional Office for Central Asia (ROCA) with the Tajik Government is to seek alternative funding sources and increase funding from state budget.

Results: Achieved. While the U.S. government is the principle DCA donor, the Norwegian Government, through UNODC, allocated 23,000 USD to cover a 10% shortfall in DCA salaries. In 2009, the Government of Tajikistan allocated the DCA 3,507,420 somoni (610,500 somoni for salary supplement) from the state coffers. This was 20% more than in the DCA's 2008 budget. In 2010, the Government of Tajikistan plans to allocate 3,252,000 somoni to the DCA.

Benchmark 1.3. To provide payment of grants to support DCA employees (including Mobile Team staff).

Result: Achieved. No discussion.

Benchmark 2.1a. To develop and strengthen bilateral and multilateral cooperation with foreign agencies, work towards agreements and protocols, and conduct joint anti-drug smuggling operations at national and international levels.

Results: Achieved. During the reported period, DCA liaison

officers launched joint operations with Afghanistan law enforcement agencies and conducted 27 joint operations leading to the seizure of 4,827 kg of drugs (4,526 kg raw opium, 178 kg heroin, and 121 kg cannabis).

Benchmark 2.1b. DCA liaison officers (DLO) in Afghanistan (Faizabad, Kunduz, Mazari Sharif, and Taloqan) and in Kyrgyzstan (Osh) should promote and expand their drug control activities and cooperation with Afghan and Kyrgyz enforcement partners.

Results: Partially achieved. The DLO Taloqan office reopened in October after being closed for 10 months. INL identified funds to re-launch and administer the Taloqan liaison officer project previously funded by the DEA. During the first two months of resumed operation, the DLO in Taloqan, Afghanistan, seized 65 kg of heroin.

Benchmark 2.1c. To sign a cooperation agreement between the DCA Tajikistan and the National Security Committee of Kazakhstan in the framework of the UNODC ROCA.

Results: Partially Achieved. The DCA received verbal assurance that Kazakh law enforcement would sign the document. General Nazarov discussed this issue with the Kazakh Ambassador in Tajikistan and awaits a formal reply. This benchmark remains pending.

Benchmark 2.2. To organize and conduct operations KUKNOR (poppy) 2009, CHANNEL 2009 and TARCET in Tajikistan, and to inform the Government of Tajikistan, UNODC/ROCA, and donors of the results.

Results: Achieved. However, no report was given for the CHANNEL 2009 operation.

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KUKNOR 2009 was conducted between May 10 and November 30. The DCA, with other Tajik law enforcement agencies, seized 2,385 kg of drugs, including 687 kg of heroin, 532 kg raw opium, and 1,165 kg of cannabis.

TARCET - The DCA, with regional law enforcement partners, seized 177 kg of drugs.

Benchmark 2.3. To develop and publish regular reports (quarterly, semi-annual and annual) and information-analytical surveys on the drug situation in the country and region for presentation to the President, Government of Tajikistan, and other ministries, agencies, and international organizations, including UNODC and donors.

Results: Achieved. The DCA prepared regular reports on the drug situation in Tajikistan and sent them to UNODC/ROCA, INL and DEA.

Benchmark 2.4. To continue development of the DCA officers' professional skills (within the country and abroad) and to jointly conduct a job task analysis as a basis for training development/priority capacity building.

Results: Partially achieved. Two training sessions were postponed until 2010.

Analysts in the DCA's Regional Branch offices in Kurgan-Tube, Khatlon, and Khujand, Sughd, were trained on i2 software to compile information into a database from which telephone link analysis could be conducted. Drug Control Agency's analyst experts provided the training.

Analysts from the Counter Narcotics Police of Afghanistan, DCA, and MOI Tajikistan received an advanced training in iBase/Analyst's Notebook. An international expert from United Kingdom provided this training. .

They assessed the DCA's current working conditions and defined specific shortcomings and achievements.

Benchmark 2.5. To create database accounting of drug addicts and HIV/AIDS infected persons in Tajikistan (see paragraph 6).

Results: Partially achieved. The DCA created a national database of HIV/AIDS infected individuals which does not include names. The DCA considers this a partial achievement. The database includes gender, age, location, cause of infection, etc.

Benchmark 2.6. The completion of a "Harris" radio system to increase coordination efficiency and interaction between DCA and other Tajik law enforcement agencies.

Results: Not achieved. We will identify and install additional radio equipment. This is an ODC project and INL will coordinate the issue with ODC.

Benchmark 2.7. To support implementation of "Unified State

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Program of addiction prevention and prevention of illicit drugs trafficking for 2008-2012."

Results: Partially achieved. A UNODC/ROCA Expert studied and reported on integrating the analytical Center info into the forensic lab database.

Benchmark 2.8. To support the establishment of DCA canine training center.

Results: Achieved. BOMCA/CADAP will build a new DCA canine training facility starting in January 2010. (This is not a USG supported project.)

Benchmark 2.9. Continuing the provision of office equipment, vehicles, and operational equipment to increase the efficiency of the DCA.

Results: Achieved. INL procured equipment for the DLO in Taloqan and mobile groups.

Benchmark 2.10. To enhance technical capacity of the DCA forensic functions.

Results: Achieved. UNODC renovated the Khatlon Forensic Lab with Norwegian funds, and the opening ceremony will take place on December 23.

Benchmark 3.1. Provide additional and required equipment to the GBAO Mobile Units.

Results: Achieved. No discussion.

Benchmark 3.2. To continue providing fuel to the DCA MOU within the assigned amount.

Results: Achieved. The DCA's request for continued support to buy automotive fuel was granted. UNODC will reallocate \$30,000 USD in operational funds to the fuel line item. This reallocation was approved by INL.

Benchmark 3.3. To establish and staff Mobile Units in the Murgab and Ishkashim regions of GBAO.

Results: Achieved. The DCA developed the structure of both units, and is recruiting 20 officers, 10 in Murgab and 10 in Ishkashim. INL will support the Murgab officers through salary supplements.

Benchmark 3.4. To start the reconstruction of the DCA Mobile Unit administrative buildings in Murgab and Ishkashim. To provide office and computer equipment, and vehicles for the Mobile Units. To recruit candidates for the GBAO Mobile Units, and to provide appropriate training for the newly hired officers.

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Results: Partially Achieved. The construction in Murgab is 20% complete but has stopped for the winter. A tender was announced for the Ishkashim construction and UNODC is identifying a

contractor. The DCA advertized the GBAO openings chose a preliminary list of 32 applicants and presented the list to INL for consideration.

¶8. (SBU) UNODC, DCA, and INL are reviewing the DCA benchmarks for January - June 2010. UNODC is updating the benchmark document. While INL can't underwrite the DCA indefinitely, the Tajik Finance Ministry has not been able to offset the 10% reduction in INL provided salary supplements due to the economic downturn. This created a morale issue in the DCA and increased attrition dramatically. INL Dushanbe decided to not make the next scheduled 10% reduction in 2010. The announcement of this decision resulted in an immediate improvement in morale, and DCA officers who recently jumped ship are asking for reinstatement. As a further inducement towards greater transparency, increased operational cooperation with the DEA, and improved case results, INL left the door open for negotiations on restoring the 10% salary supplement reduction made in 2009. If warranted, such negotiations will take place in June 2010.

¶9. (SBU) Comment: Despite the negative impact of the 10% decrease in salary supplement payments in 2009, the DCA is functioning within expectations and improving. Seizure rates are adequate, and the DCA developed 117 cases, 35 more than in ¶2008. Drug seizures totaled 963 kg (312 heroin, 324 kg of raw opium, 300 kg of cannabis, plus 3123 ecstasy tablets and 9 firearms). END COMMENT

¶10. Post will prepare an in-depth DCA project summary cable in January 2010.  
GROSS